



Ambassador Jeffrey L. Bleich – ANZAC Day Commemoration

**Remarks by Ambassador Jeffrey Bleich
for the ANZAC Day Commemoration
San Francisco, California**

(Remarks as prepared for delivery – April 25, 2010)

Today marks a solemn day for two of America's greatest allies, Australia and New Zealand. On behalf of the President of the United States and the People of the United States, I join with you and with people around the world to honor the sacrifice of the Anzacs on this day and through the First World War. My home in Canberra is part of a strong, prosperous and free nation in part because of the bravery of these individuals. Eight thousand young Australians sacrificed their lives on the shores of Gallipoli and 60,000 gave their lives in WWI. They fought for our future, and they demonstrated courage and commitment against all odds. Today, people around the world stand together to honor them: not because they died, but because of why they died. They died for something greater than themselves. They died so that each of us could remain free.

There is nothing more tragic than the loss of good people at the prime of their life. These soldiers and sailors gave up everything. The simple joys of a family, friends, barbeques, and growing old together, as well as all of the memories those create. It is for us to remember for them. It is for us to lead the exemplary lives they would have lead if they could, to honor them by remembering them, and to ensure that we never forget the great gift they gave to us.